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supports (14, 15) by means of which the auxiliary frame (6) is supported on the base frame (4), characterized in that all supports (14, 15) are mechanically coupled to one another by coupling means (23), said coupling means being actuable to effect simultaneous adjustment of all said supports (14, 15) thereby to change the distance between said belts (3, 5).--

B2

[Amend claim 6 as follows:]

--6. (amended) Conveyor belt system according to Claim 5, wherein there is a winder (24) close to the other transverse side of the frames, and the pull element is a flexible cable (23), the ends of which are each wound in the opposite direction on the winder (24).--

B3

[Amend claim 9 as follows:]

--9. (amended) Conveyor belt system according to Claim 8, wherein each ramp support (16) of the lead-in frame components (11) is fixed to, in each case, one of said lead-in frame components (11) by means of a bearer (28) which can be moved transversely with respect to said one lead-in frame component (11) and bears on the other lead-in frame component (8) and the associated block (18) is movably attached to that lead-in frame component (11) to which the bearer (28) is also attached.--

Amend claim 12 as follows:

~~B4~~ ~~--12. (amended) Oven (2) according to Claim 11, wherein a drive for the coupling means (23) is located outside the tank or cover.--~~

Amend claim 13 as follows:

~~B5~~ ~~--13. (twice amended) Oven (2) according to Claim 11, wherein a lifting device (33) is provided for lifting the cover (35) and the conveyor belt system (1) relative to the tank (34).--~~

REMARKS

The claims have been amended so as to take care of the formal matters accurately pointed out by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has also been amended so as to make even plainer the fact that the coupling means 23 effect simultaneous adjustment of all the supports 14, 15, thereby to change the distance between the belts 3 and 5. This was implicit in claim 1 as originally presented and so does not constitute a narrowing of claim 1 but rather a clarification thereof.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over BENSON et al. 3,309,981, alone or in view of NARAMURA 5,549,040.

In BENSON et al., the frame member 91 is fixed, and individual adjustment of the screw assemblies 86 and 92